

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Miles City Field Office

Armstrong Operating, Inc
Repeat Powerline

Determination of NEPA Adequacy
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0202-DNA

For Further Information Please Contact:

Bureau of Land Management
Miles City Field Office
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, Montana 59301
406-233-2800

BLM



Worksheet
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

BLM Office: Miles City Field Office

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-MT-020-2013-202-DNA

Case File/Project No: MTM95366

Proposed Action Title/Type: Armstrong Operating, Inc. Two power line installation Sundry Notices. Repeat Field, Carter County, MT

Location/Legal Description: T. 1 S., R. 62 E., Section 4

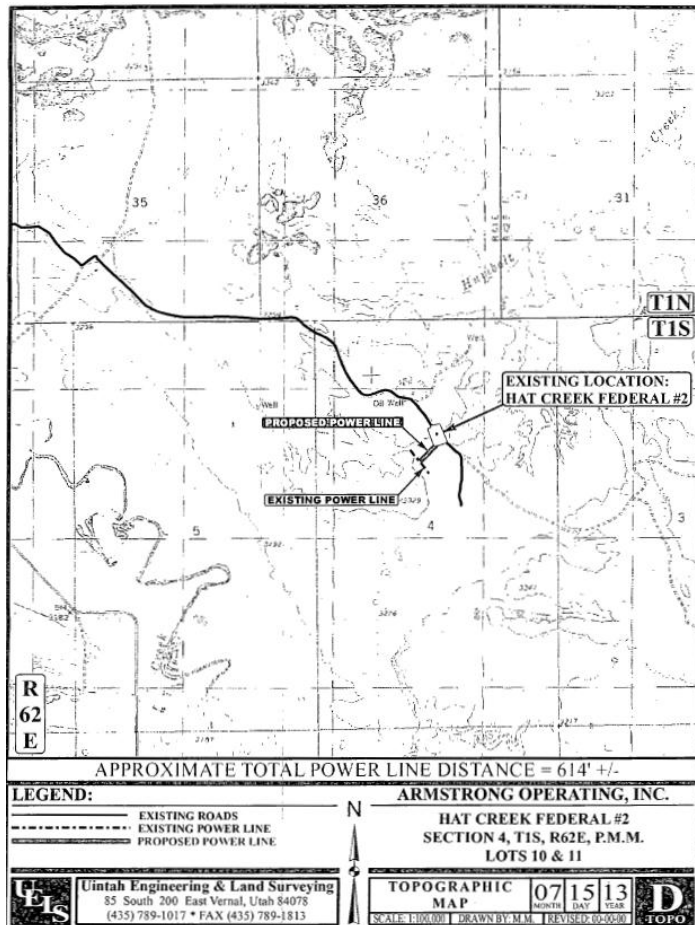
Table 1 Powerline

Lease	Well Number	Powerline Location	Surface Ownership	Powerline (footages)
MTM95366	Repeat #1 SWD	T.1 S., R. 62 E., Sec. 4	BLM	301' x 125', (0.86 acres of travel way)
MTM95366	Hat Creek Federal #2	T.1 S., R. 62 E., Sec. 4	BLM	615' x 125', (1.8 acres of travel way)

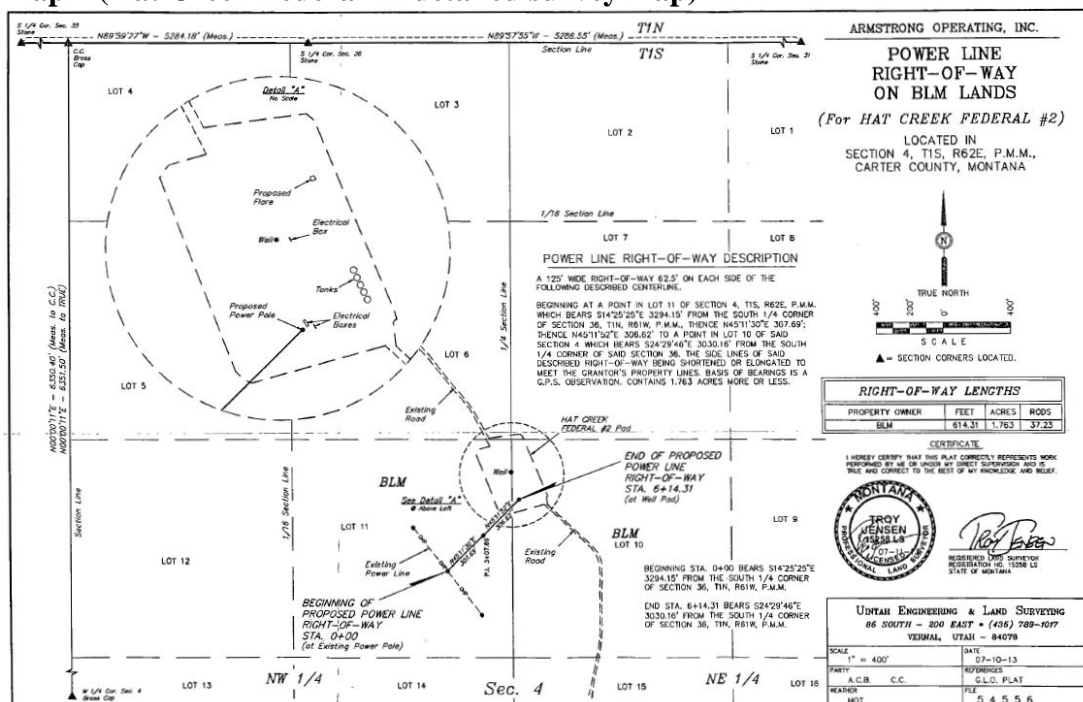
A: Description of the Proposed Action: Armstrong Operating, Inc., requests approval to install two power lines. The proposed power line plan for the Repeat #1 SWD well is to come off the existing 14.4 KV line power line to the well site (approx.. 301'). A 125' corridor is being proposed, 62.5' on each side of centerline. The Corridor is approximately .86 acres. One pole will be needed and placed on location.

The proposed power line plan for the Hat Creek Federal #2 well is to come off the existing 14.4 KV power line to the well site (approx.. 615'). A 125' corridor is being proposed, 62.5' on each side of centerline. The Corridor is approximately 1.8 acres. One pole will be needed and placed on location and with one pole off location. (see attached diagrams). The power line routes encompass about 2.7 acres across BLM surface, and the only long term impact to the surface will be the location of each of the 3 poles and KV lines. The proposed actions would be entirely on BLM surface. This would take about a week to complete. (See Maps 1-4)

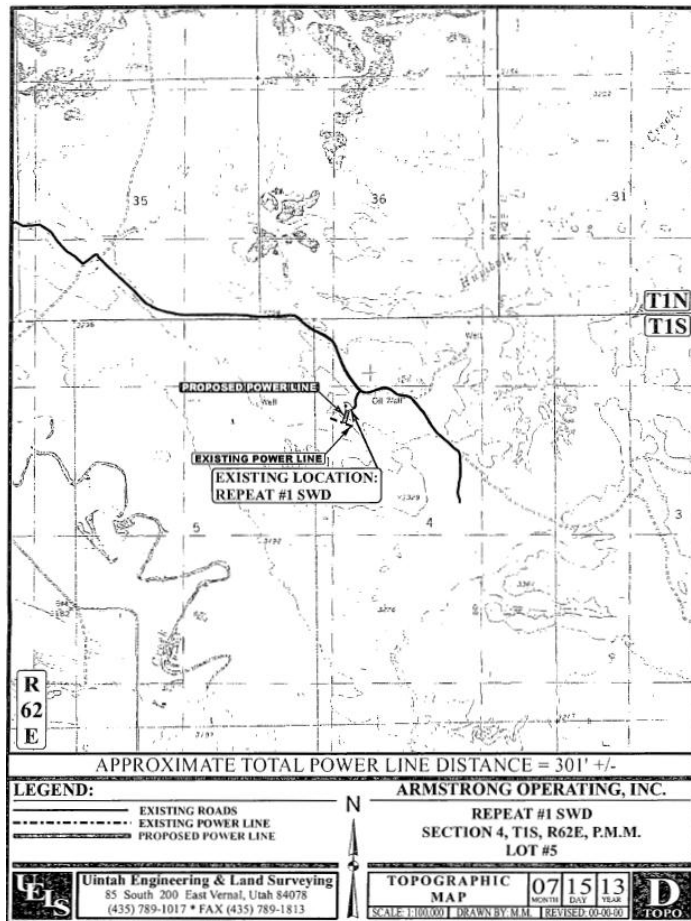
Map 1 (Hat Creek Federal #2)



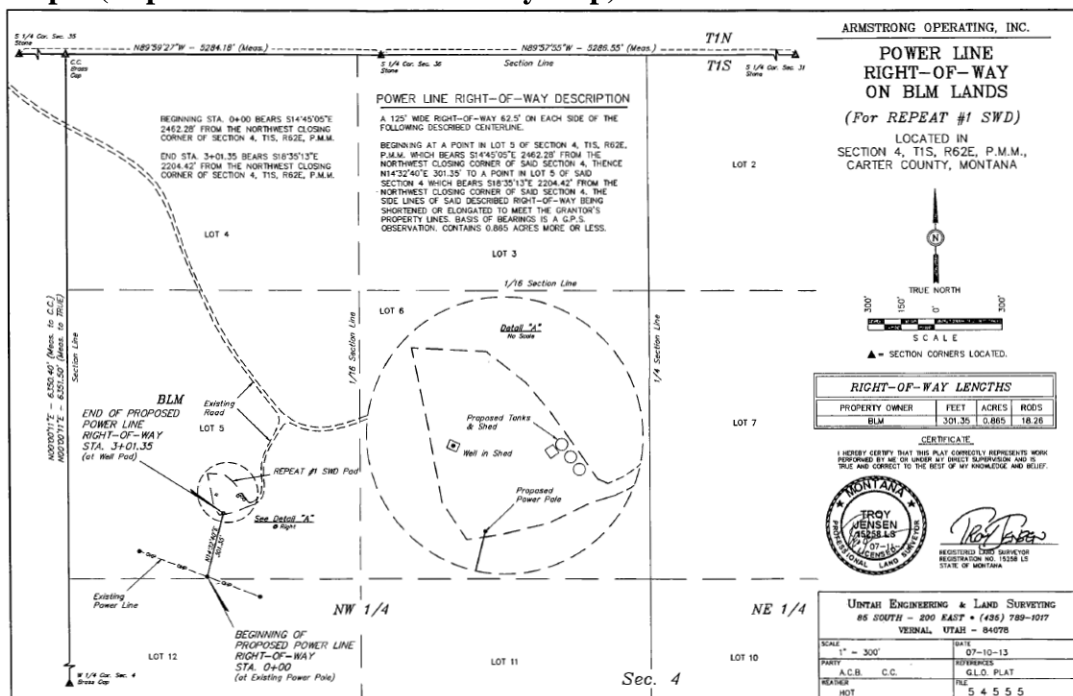
Map 2 (Hat Creek Federal #2 detailed survey map)



Map 3 (Repeat #1 SWD)



Map 4 (Repeat #1 SWD detailed survey map)



Applicant: Armstrong Operating, Inc.

County: Carter County, MT

DNA Originator: Rick Lang, Minerals Resource Specialist

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name* Powder River RMP Date Approved 3/85

Other document** Oil and Gas RMP/EIS Amendment pg. 61 Date Approved 1994

**List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions)

Big Dry RMP- Production and Development p. 321-325

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Nadel & Gussman, T. 1 s., R. 62 E., Sec. 4 EA # EA MT-020-2007-243 6/2007

Armstrong Operating, Inc., T. 1 s., R. 62 E., Sec. 4 # EA MT-020-2011-211 6/2011

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation and monitoring report).

Cultural Report: MT-020-13-270

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial? The existing analyses are adequate with regard to the proposed action. The referenced EA analyzed impacts related to buried pipelines in the same geographic area. In addition, the RMP/EIS covers installation of pipelines. No important new information or circumstances related to the proposed action have developed since completion of the referenced EA.

2. **Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values?** Yes, the referenced EA analyzed a range of reasonable alternatives, including “No Action”.

3. **Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstance would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?** The existing analyses are adequate with regard to the proposed action. No important new information or circumstances related to the proposed action have developed since completion of the referenced EA.

4. **Are the direct, indirect and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?** Yes, the actions proposed would have the same direct and indirect impacts as those analyzed and addressed in the referenced EA. The RMP also analyzed the impacts of installation of pipelines.

5. **Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?** Yes, the public had the opportunity to review the referenced EA. In addition, the RMP/FEIS had public and interagency involvement and review while being prepared.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

REVIEWERS	TITLE	ASSIGNMENT	DATE/INITIALS
Bobby Baker	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	8/23/13 BJB
CJ Truesdale	Archeologist	Cultural	<i>CJ 08/27/2013</i> <i>MT-020-13-270</i>

/s/ Dale C. Tribby
Environmental Coordinator

08/28/2013
Date

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

See Conditions of Approval Below

CONCLUSION

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- ☒ Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked



Todd Yeager
Field Office Manager
Miles City Field Office

8/29/2013

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

1. To minimize effects to nesting migratory birds in the vicinity of the proposed action, no ground disturbing activities would occur from April 15 to July 15, or the option of pre-construction surveys performed by a qualified biologist would be required. If no nesting migratory birds are found, approval would be granted by the BLM. If nesting birds are found, activities would be precluded until nesting is completed or allowed if nests could be avoided by the activity in a manner which would not result in nest abandonment.
2. Construction will not be authorized from December 1 to March 31 to protect big game (mule deer and pronghorn) within identified winter range habitat.
3. The operator is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during construction, the operator is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary);
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate; and,
 - consult with affected Tribes as appropriate

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required.

Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation costs. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

4. Notify BLM (Minerals, 406-233-3640 and/or Rick Lang, 406-233-3667) at least 48 hours before beginning construction work.
5. Unless otherwise agreed to by the authorized officer in writing, power lines shall be constructed in accordance to standards outlined in "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power lines," Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 1981, as amended in 1996 and 2006. The holder shall assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication are "eagle safe." Such proof shall be provided by a raptor expert approved by the authorized officer.

6. All construction activities and associated vehicle traffic shall be contained in the 125' wide power line corridor as proposed with the Sundry Notice. Any variation from the approved route must be approved in advance by this office.
7. Construction holes left open overnight shall be covered. Covers shall be secured in place and shall be strong enough to prevent livestock or wildlife from falling through and into a hole.
8. Vegetation removal from the proposed power line corridor shall be kept to a minimum to allow existing vegetation to re-establish in disturbed area.
9. Topsoil shall be removed before blading and stockpiled for reclamation.
10. The power lines corridors shall be cleaned up of all debris, material and equipment after completion of the construction activities.
11. All disturbed areas on BLM surface shall utilize the seed mix found in Table 3:

Table1 BLM Seed Mix

2 Hat Creek seed mix							
Scientific Name	Common Name	*	Ratio Desired in Mix	PLS/lb	PLS/ft ²	PLS/ac	PLS lb/ac
Grass	Wyoming big Sagebrush	s	0.3	2,500,000	12	522,720	0.2091
Calamovilfa longifolia	winterfat	s	0.05	56,700	2	87,120	1.5365
Hesperostipa comata	Fringed Sagewort	s	0.05	4,536,000	2	87,120	0.0192
Pseudoroegneria spicata	American vetch	f	0.05	33,000	2	87,120	2.6400
Schizachyrium scoparium	scarlet globemallow	f	0.05	515,000	2	87,120	0.1692
Forbs	western yarrow	f	0.05	2,770,000	2	87,120	0.0315
Dalea purpurea	purple prairie clover	f	0.05	250,000	2	87,120	0.3485
Echinacea angustifolia var. angustifolia	bluebunch wheatgrass	bg	0.1	139,000	4	174,240	1.2535
Ratibida columnifera	thickspike wheatgrass	bg	0.1	145,000	4	174,240	1.2017
Shrubs	green needlegrass	bg	0.1	186,000	4	174,240	0.9368
Artemisia cana ssp. cana	slender wheatgrass	bg	0.1	140,000	4	174,240	1.2446
Total			1		40	1,742,400	9.59

Powerline Hat Creek seed mix

12. Reclamation work will be considered successful when the seeded area is stabilized, potential water erosion is effectively controlled and the vegetative cover is established with at least 60% of the species required.
13. The operator is responsible for the suppression of any fires started as a result of operations. The contractor must have the necessary equipment, including fire extinguishers or water, to provide initial suppression of fire.

You have the right to request a State Director Review (SDR) of this decision pursuant to 43 CFR 3165.3(b). An SDR request, including all supporting documentation, must be filed with the Montana State Office, State Director (MT-920) at 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669 within 20 business days of your receipt of this decision. If you are adversely affected by the State Director's decision, it can be further appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) in Washington D.C. pursuant to 43 CFR 3165.4, 43 CFR 4.411, and 43 CFR 4.413. Should you fail to timely request an SDR, or after receiving the State Director's decision, fail to timely file an appeal with the IBLA, no further administrative review of this decision will be possible.